

What is claimed is:

1           1. A tele-inventory system for inventorying  
2 various kinds of commodities in a shop by an operator  
3 from a remote management apparatus that is installed  
4 remotely from the shop, comprising:  
5           at the shop  
6           camera means for taking images of object  
7 commodities to be inventoried;  
8           image-transmitter means for transmitting said  
9 taken images of the object commodities to the remote  
10 management apparatus;  
11           at the remote management apparatus  
12           image-receiver means for receiving said taken  
13 images of the object commodities from said  
14 image-transmitter means; and  
15           display means for displaying said taken images  
16 of the object commodities which images have been  
17 received by said image-receiver means, whereby the  
18 operator is able to make an inventory of the object  
19 commodities at the remote management apparatus with  
20 consulting said taken images of the object  
21 commodities which images have been displayed on said  
22 display means.

1           2. A tele-inventory system according to claim  
2 1, further comprising:

3           at the remote management apparatus  
4           instruction-transmitter means for  
5   transmitting instructions of the operator to the  
6   shop; and  
7           at the shop  
8           instruction-receiver means for receiving said  
9   instructions of the operator from the remote  
10   management apparatus.

1           3. A tele-inventory system according to claim  
2   2, further comprising:

3           at the shop  
4           camera control means for controlling said  
5   camera means based on said instructions of the  
6   operator, which have been received by said  
7   instruction-receiver means.

1           4. A tele-inventory system according to claim  
2   3, further comprising:

3           at the shop  
4           manipulator means for manipulating a posture  
5   and a position of the individual object commodity;  
6   and  
7           manipulator controlling means for controlling  
8   said manipulator means based on said instructions  
9   of the operator, which have been received by said  
10   instruction-receiver means.

1           5. A tele-inventory system according to claim  
2 3, further comprising:  
3           at the shop  
4           a database for previously storing commodity  
5 information about a correlation between the  
6 individual object commodity and position  
7 information about a position of the individual  
8 object commodity; and  
9           said camera control means being operable, based  
10 on said instructions received by said  
11 instruction-receiver means, to read, from said  
12 database, commodity information with respect to the  
13 individual object commodity contained in said  
14 instructions, and to control said camera means in  
15 such a manner that said camera means takes an image  
16 of the last-named individual object commodity.

1           6. A tele-inventory system according to claim  
2 1, further comprising:  
3           at the remote management apparatus  
4           pointer means for pointing the individual  
5 object commodity in said taken images of the object  
6 commodities which images have been displayed on said  
7 display means; and  
8           marker means for labeling said taken image of  
9 the individual object commodity, which image has  
10 been pointed by said pointing device, with a